

# Research and policy for today's Asia



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## SEI Asia fact sheet June 2021

Asia continues to develop at a rapid pace, and its environmental and sustainability challenges are escalating just as quickly. SEI Asia, located in Bangkok, meets these challenges by bridging science and policy with rigorous research, active collaboration, and expert policy advice and support.

The Asia centre is an integral component of the SEI, an independent international research institute headquartered in Sweden with seven additional offices in Europe, Africa, and North and South America. As a non-profit research institute, SEI acts as an honest and transparent adviser for decision-makers in handling complex environmental, developmental and social issues through its objective scientific analysis. SEI Asia bridges these science and policy domains with a perspective unique to Asia that springs from its people, communities, governments and organizations. We work both on the ground and within organizational settings to ensure the great diversity of Asia's environment and development demands are met with equally diverse and customized responses and actions.

### Expertise in action

SEI Asia employees have a broad range of skills, experiences and expertise in environment and development research, programme management, policy and communications. We work with boundary partners: individuals and organizations that are best placed to make a long-term impact on policy and practice. These include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), policymakers, researchers, civil society, community groups, the private sector and others that will set the pace for a sustainable, thriving and vibrant Asia in the coming decades.

### Work themes

SEI Asia tackles issues that reach into the heart of Asia's environmental and sustainability challenges. We organize our work through dedicated groups that focus on a specific theme, in addition to guiding a number of local, national and regional projects dedicated to community policymaking and sustainability. The following work themes are helping to ensure Asia's future is clean, green, progressive and just:

**Gender, Environment and Development:** GED conducts research on key drivers of gender and social inequality in the environment and development fields, building partnerships to complement and enhance the capacities of development practitioners and civil society groups for effective gender and social analyses.

Image (above): © ROENGCHAI KONGMUANG

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Stockholm Environment Institute is an international non-profit research and policy organisation that tackles environment and development challenges.

We connect science and decision-making to develop solutions for a sustainable future for all.

Our approach is highly collaborative: stakeholder involvement is at the heart of our efforts to build capacity, strengthen institutions, and equip partners for the long term.

Our work spans climate, water, air, and land-use issues, and integrates evidence and perspectives on governance, the economy, gender and human health.

Across our eight centres in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas, we engage with policy processes, development action and business practice throughout the world.



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**Sustainable Water Resources Management:** SWRM seeks to make significant impacts on more sustainable water resources management and poverty reduction in the Asian region by reducing water demands, water pollution, climate risks and water-related disaster risks – in particular of floods and drought – while increasing water efficiency, resilient ecosystems and cities, and water cooperation at local, national and transboundary scales.

**Climate Change, Disasters and Development:** CCDD works with at-risk and vulnerable individuals, groups and communities to enhance their resilience to disasters and climate change impacts through responsive science-to-policy engagement and capacity building.

**City Health and Well-being Initiative:** The CHeW Initiative uses approaches including participatory Geographic Information Systems (GIS), well-being surveys, and citizen science to understand how urban public spaces such as parks and markets can affect the health and well-being of city residents. This is done in order to inform governance processes towards greater urban equity in rapidly developing secondary cities in Asia and Africa.

**SUMERNET:** SEI hosts the Sustainable Mekong Research Network secretariat, which supports policy-relevant research and outreach with partners working on sustainable development in the Mekong Region countries. This support nourishes analysis that informs and influences the Mekong Region's sustainable development by backing credible collaborative research, catalyzing independent discussions on key regional issues, and engaging with decision-makers.

**Policy Support:** SEI Asia's policy team supports our key research to ensure we deliver relevant information to decision-making processes on issues at local, national and regional levels. Our policy work includes stakeholders from governments and interest groups, to civil society and the private sector, and occurs through three main channels: evidence-building, policy advice and strategy development.

**Communications:** Our communications work ensures the strong visibility and consistent messaging of our work in the Asia Centre. Our team of communications professionals provide support across all our work themes to help produce both academic and non-academic writing, enable a strong presence on social media channels, connect with media, and develop innovative multimedia products.